



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: **NORTH DAKOTA**

- **Income eligibility limit:** As of February 2016, a family of three in North Dakota could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$63,348 (314 percent of poverty, 85 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** North Dakota had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2016.
- **Parent copayments:** In February 2016, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty (\$20,160 a year) receiving child care assistance in North Dakota paid \$38 per month, or 2 percent of its income, in copayments. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$30,240 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$109 per month, or 4 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, North Dakota's reimbursement rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance were below the federally recommended level—the 75th percentile of current market rates, which is the level designed to give families access to 75 percent of the providers in their community.
 - North Dakota's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$565, which was \$100 (15 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - North Dakota's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$663, which was \$107 (14 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, North Dakota did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, North Dakota allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance for up to 8 weeks while searching for a job.³

Source: Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Red Light Green Light: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2016 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2016). These data reflect policies as of February 2016, unless otherwise indicated.

1 The income limit for assistance was reduced to \$44,724 (60 percent of state median income) as of April 2016.

2 Families receiving services through the Crossroads program (which provides support to parents up to age 21 so they can continue their education), families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and families receiving Diversion Assistance (short-term benefits and services) are exempt from copayments. As of April 2016, the state increased families' copayments.

3 In February 2016, parents could qualify or continue to receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 8 weeks in a calendar year, for up to 20 hours per week. The state no longer allows parents to qualify to receive child care assistance while searching for a job, unless they are receiving or transitioning from TANF, as of April 2016.

